

a use to which these articles cannot be put by an ingenious person; and even in a small hospital they may disappear at the rate of five hundred or more a week unless a careful watch is kept.

Next in order comes the innocent and elusive little safety pin. It is one of the most remarkable mysteries of a babies' hospital, the way in which they disappear. They melt away like snow under a summer sun, and though small in themselves can be one of the largest items of ward expenses unless carefully looked after. This may seem a small economy to mention, but unless it receives considerable petting, the waste from this source will make extraordinary inroads on the hospital exchequer.

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## NURSES' HOMES: THEIR FURNISHING AND EQUIPMENT

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As a preliminary step to the discussion of the furnishing and equipment of *any* building must come some consideration of the number and arrangement of the various rooms which it does or should contain.

Our schools or homes for nurses may be divided into two classes:

First, Those which provide for all the ordinary needs of the pupils, are, as we say, self-contained;

Second, Those which are dependent for certain things, such as laundry or kitchen service, or both, on the regular hospital departments.

Buildings of the first class must contain an engine-room, a laundry, a kitchen, servants' quarters, pantries, a dining-room, class and reception rooms, bedrooms, lavatories, storage closets, etc. Here and there we find additions to the above, such as libraries, sewing-rooms, a gymnasium, a swimming pool, etc.

Buildings of the second class differ from the first by the lack of one or more of the *essential* departments, a lack supplied by the hospital, as has been said. I think there can be no room for doubt that the self-contained home is the ideal, conducting as it does to greater freedom in management and approximation more nearly the environment of the school to home conditions.

But, alas, there is also no room for doubt that such a home is more costly, not merely in the initial outlay, but chiefly in the extra cost of maintenance caused by duplication or division of departments already existing in the hospital.

It is impossible here to consider fully the furnishings, etc., of all these departments. I shall pass over some briefly, and discuss others at greater length. But first of all I wish to speak of certain matters which pertain to the house as a whole, or to several departments. The marble, brass and tiling which we use so freely in our hospitals, with more or less necessity, should be used very sparingly in our school buildings. This both from reasons of economy and because the appearance and "atmosphere" of the school-home should be as different as possible from that of the hospital.

*Stairs.*—If cost will permit, marble staircases are, for reasons of safety from fire, desirable.

*Walls.*—Bare white walls are ugly and quite unnecessary. Plaster may be colored before being put on the wall. This wears well and is satisfactory and the additional cost is nominal, or a wash of water color may be applied on new plaster. Calcimining is not so desirable.

*Floors.*—Hard-wood floors are most satisfactory for bed-rooms, reception, or other sitting-rooms. Of these the least expensive is hard, white pine. If quarter-sawed and laid in narrow planks it is very satisfactory. A finish of good coach varnish or prepared floor varnish of a high grade, such as "liquid granite," is best with a pine floor. Hard floors of a more expensive wood may be simply oiled or waxed. For a floor that is not subject to hard use shellac may be used and may have color mixed with it.

If one can afford mosaic or terrazzo floors they are most satisfactory for corridors; if not, linoleum attached to the floor with cement, and of the best quality, is thoroughly satisfactory.

The new rubber floor coverings are recommended for their durability.

*Wood-work.*—White wood stained and oiled finished looks well and is easily cleaned. Paint is more expensive and wears badly.

#### VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

*Laundry.*—As we are to have papers on the laundry question I shall only say that for purposes of instruction the sorting-room should be quite separate from the laundry proper.

*Servants' Quarters.*—A sitting-room should be provided for the servants' use, and proper provision made in the way of backstairs and separate entrance. The housekeeper's room should command the entrance to the servants' quarters. A good arrangement is to have a wing containing the laundry, servants' rooms and kitchen.

*The kitchen* should be preferably at the top of the house, but the

essential thing is ample provision of light and air. The servants' dining-room should connect with the kitchen. It is a mistake to have a kitchen too large.

*Floor.*—For the floor ordinary terra cotta tiles are moderate in cost and wear well.

*Walls.*—The walls may be painted, or wall-canvas first applied and this finished with paint.

*Stoves.*—Gas stoves are most convenient and the saving in labor moderates their cost. Where steam is available, steam cookers of various types are a great convenience.

*Sinks.*—A galvanized-iron sink is cheap, easily kept clean, and wears well. There should be a separate hand basin with hot and cold water.

*Utensils.*—Granite ware and tin of good quality is best for utensils. Copper is too heavy for women to handle, when cooking is done for large numbers. A large zinc-covered table should be near the stove. Another table should have the coffee mill, meat chopper, and bread cutter firmly attached to it.

*Cold Storage.*—Whether there is cold storage or refrigerator, there should always be three divisions—one for meats, one for milk, one for other supplies.

*Dining- or Serving-Rooms.*—Two or three smaller rooms are to be preferred to one large room; in this way regular pupils, special nurses or preliminary pupils may be separated. With a serving-room centrally situated such division makes service easier. Tables and chairs should be made to order. They will cost more but wear better.

A point to be noted is that architects are apt to cut one short of space in the serving-room. Here, as in the kitchen, there should be a hand-basin, separate from the sink. Both are best of porcelain. Drain boards should be of wood. A steam-table, hot closet, and refrigerator are necessary, and tea and coffee urns with gas or steam attachments.

*Reception- or Sitting-Rooms.*—In a small school there should be at least one reception-room and one "common" room upstairs, which may do duty as reading-, sewing-, and sitting-room—be akin to a family living-room. In a large school there should be some such room on each floor. The custom frequently followed of having only one very large reception- or sitting-room is to be deprecated. Such a room is undoubtedly imposing and used for functions but do not let us sacrifice to appearance or occasional use the needs of every-day life. By the use of sliding-doors a series of rooms such as a library, a class-room, and a reception-room, may be transformed into one for special needs. Such an arrangement will permit of each room being furnished for its own purpose and

so having a distinctive character and an attractiveness that the large, hotel-like room lacks. Furniture must be strong and well made. The chairs thoroughly comfortable. Morris and rocking-chairs are always appreciated. Couches should be selected as comfortable to lie on, not merely good to look at. There should be a desk or writing-table in every public room, and proper reading lights. Suitably framed photographs of great pictures, even in the cheaper kinds, are a pleasure and an inspiration. I think one should consider pictures as essential to the equipment of our school-homes. Rugs, as good as one can afford, are the most satisfactory floor covering.

*Class-Rooms.*—Light and ventilation must be the first consideration. The chairs should have writing-arm attachments. There should be a blackboard affixed to the wall. Unless there is a special reference library, reference books should be kept here. Connecting with the "class"-room should be the "demonstrating" room fitted up with everything needed for instruction in practical nursing.

*Sitting-Rooms Upstairs.*—The "upstairs sitting-room" or floor-study should be simply furnished. Unless there is a *separate* sewing-room, there should be a sewing machine and a good-sized work-table. Magazines and books of fiction should be found here.

*Tea-Pantry.*—Connecting with this room there should be a tea-pantry having a sink with hot and cold water, a simple gas stove, a water-cooler and perhaps a small ice-chest.

*Bed-rooms* should be single for the most part; if double, all the furniture should be duplicated. For several reasons I think divan or cot beds most satisfactory. They are found in many college dormitories. A simple denim or washing-chintz cover should be provided (the grievance question of sitting or lying on white counterpanes is thus disposed of!). Slips of the same material to draw over the pillows are satisfactory. There should be a rug or strip of carpet, a Morris or rocking-chair, a straight chair and a table with shelf underneath. A book-case and desk combined, attached to the wall, is very satisfactory, inexpensive and saving space. A reading lamp is essential.

*Closets.*—Clothes closets are certainly most desirable and can be provided at an expense of about fifty dollars a room. Wardrobes built into the room cost less than separate ones, twenty-five dollars being a sufficient allowance. In either closets or wardrobes shelves for hat and shoes should be provided.

Double rooms should be supplied with a screen. I think individual arrangement of the bed-rooms should not only be allowed but encouraged, as in so many we have to suppress manifestations of individuality.

*Lavatories* should be situated on each floor, an allowance being made of one bath to every five or six and one wash basin to every ten or twelve nurses. Terra cotta tiles may, again, be used for the floor. For the walls canvas or buckram wainscoating, enamelled white, looks and wears well. Partitions may be of plainly-finished wood, also enamelled. It is well to remember that wood properly finished and enamelled is quite as sanitary as marble. A small tub or sink in which stockings, etc., may be washed is desirable.

#### A WORD OR TWO ON MANAGEMENT

In charge of the building should be a nurse as "House-Mother" or "Home-Sister." Her regular duties should be sufficiently light for her to have time to look after the pupils in little motherly ways and to do the many nameless things that go to make a real home. One should like her to be a good housekeeper and a good disciplinarian, but the one thing she *must* be is a good woman, sympathetic and tactful. I think it would be excellent experience for a third-year pupil to act as her assistant.

*Rules.*—As for rules, there should be as few as possible. One should try in all ways for self-government, which can be done through class organization.

#### IN CONCLUSION

We may choose to call our buildings schools rather than "homes," but homes in the highest and fullest sense they must be if they are to do their part in the harmonious development of our student-nurses, who are also and fundamentally women. Let us, then, aim in furnishing and equipment and management to provide an environment that may, as far as possible, supply what is lacking and counteract what is undesirable in their life in the wards,—and may also speak to them of our Faith and Hope *in* and *for* them and our profession.

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## ECONOMY IN THE USE OF SURGICAL SUPPLIES

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THE subject of this brief paper is one which is giving much thought and anxiety to heads of hospitals and training-schools, inasmuch as it is a department of hospital work in which the expenses are seen to be as a rule steadily increasing, while measures of control are difficult if not impossible to apply in any usual way. The elaboration of technique in